

Operator Examiner

News for Wastewater Treatment Professionals

Operator Certification Exams April 22, 2004



Pursuant to IC 13-18-11 and 327 IAC 5-22, notice is hereby given that the Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator Certification Examinations of all industrial and municipal classes are scheduled for April 22, 2004. Exact time and location of the exams will be provided in a letter that will be sent to individual applicants that are determined to be eligible to sit for the exam. Applicants will be assigned to one of four testing locations: Indianapolis, Elkhart, Gary

or Sellersburg. Municipal exams (Classes I-SP, I, II, III and IV) will begin at 9 a.m. EST. Industrial exams (Classes A-SQ, A, B, C and D) will begin at 1:30 p.m. EST.

Your completed application and \$30 application fee (check made payable to "IDEM") must be postmarked by March 8, 2004 and mailed to: Cashier, IDEM, P. O. Box 7060, Indianapolis, IN 46207-7060. Applications postmarked after March 8, 2004, will NOT be considered for this examination. This will be the only Wastewater Certification Exam in 2004.

Are You Really Certified?



Regulation 327 IAC 5-22-14 states that a wastewater treatment plant operator's certificate is

effective only when validated by a current certification card. If your card is expired, you're not certified! A person may not perform the duties of an operator in responsible charge without being certified.

DMR-QA Chemistry Program Information from the IDEM Coordinator

The DMR-QA Chemistry Program is an IDEM mandated laboratory quality assurance program for all major and designated minor dischargers, industrial and municipal, in the state. The program was privatized in 2000 and there are currently thirteen providers that supply samples. NPDES permittees must order all available samples that correspond with reporting requirements on the facility DMR.

Although the DMR-QA booklet explains how the program should operate, confusion often arises on WHOM to send WHAT to WHEN. The following set of Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) may help to clarify the correct procedure to follow for the successful completion of the program.

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Posey County Wastewater Treatment Operator Surrenders His Certification to IDEM to Settle Case Against Him

A southwest Indiana public wastewater treatment facility operator has surrendered his certification to the Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM), ending a three-year investigation into allegations that he falsified water sample results. Emil Michael Stucki, the former certified wastewater treatment plant operator for the Town of New Harmony, entered into an agreement that revokes his operator's certification for 10 years.

The settlement also mandates that Stucki will not perform any operational, maintenance, monitoring, sampling or reporting duties, or any other duties of a certified operator at any water or wastewater treatment facility in Indiana, also for 10 years.

The case dates back to 2000 when IDEM initiated an investigation into the alleged falsification of sampling data documented by Stucki at the New Harmony wastewater treatment plant, as well several smaller, semi-public wastewater treatment plants in Posey County. The case was heard by the Indiana Office of Environmental Adjudication on July 23, with a follow-up hearing scheduled for August 9. However, before the final hearing took place, Stucki agreed to voluntarily surrender his certification.

"This case brings an end to serious environmental concerns for Posey County residents," said IDEM Commissioner Lori F. Kaplan. "Hoosiers should not have to be concerned with the operational safety and efficiency of the public utilities on which they rely, and they should also know that IDEM will not tolerate this kind of activity."

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Monthly Report of Operation (MRO) and Monthly Monitoring Report (MMR) Forms

Updated IDEM forms for use in 2004 will be available on IDEM's Web site by the end of December. The Web address for obtaining the forms is www.IN.gov/ideam/water/publications/appsforms.html#mro. They may also be obtained electronically by contacting Don Daily at ddaily@dem.state.in.us. Those without Web access may contact IDEM to receive either hard copies of the forms or a 3.5" diskette with the Excel® version. To receive a hard copy of the form, call the person whose name and number appear in the upper right hand corner of your DMR form. You must use either the appropriate current IDEM form or an alternate form approved since January 1, 2003, by Don Daily, Chief of IDEM's Compliance Evaluation Section.

FYI from IDEM

The following information emphasizes some important news items that IDEM wants Certified Wastewater Operators to know about. The Wastewater Operator Certification Web site is now located at www.IN.gov/ideam/water/compbr/compeval/wwcert.html.

- 327 IAC 5-22-15(c) requires that a minimum of 70 percent of the required continuing education hours shall be obtained from the technical category of approved continuing education courses. No more than 30 percent of the required continuing education hours shall be obtained from non-technical subject matter. The rule requires that the course deal with one or more of the following:
 1. Technical matters related directly to wastewater treatment (e.g., activated sludge, BOD testing, infrastructure security, etc.), or
 2. General matters related to the responsibilities of a certified operator (e.g., confined space entry, bloodborne pathogens, lockout/tagout, pollution prevention, etc.).
- It is important for certified operators, and their employers, to keep track of their certification status. Training providers should supply a copy of the

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Alternative Activated Sludge MRO Form

A new alternative Activated Sludge MRO form will be available for use in 2004 that contains a fifth page full of blank columns. This form was created for facilities, such as those doing metals testing, which need additional columns.

Staff Updates within the Compliance Branch

There have been some recent staffing changes within IDEM that may effect who you need to contact in the future. Recently, Debbie Dubenetzky was promoted into the Compliance Branch Chief position and is no longer serving as the Acting Section Chief for the Operator Assistance and Pretreatment Section (OAPS). Effective September 15, OAPS staff were reallocated into the Compliance, Inspection and Industrial Permit Sections within the Office of Water Quality. To the right, you will find information on who to contact regarding wastewater certification.

Please visit the Wastewater Certification & Continuing Education Web page at www.IN.gov/ideam/water/compbr/compeval/wwcert.html.

INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT Wastewater Certification and Continuing Education

Office of Water Quality
Compliance Branch
Compliance Evaluation Section

Natalie Green

Wastewater Certification Coordinator
(317) 233-0479
ngreen@dem.state.in.us

- Provisional Applications
- Reciprocity Applications
- Operator-in-Training Applications
- Trade Association Liaison

To Be Announced

Continuing Education Coordinator
(317) 233-0419

- Course Approvals
- License Renewals
- Contact Hours

Barbara McDowell

(317) 233-6464
bmcdowel@dem.state.in.us

- April 2004 Certification Exams

Dyian Jones

Administrative Assistant
(317) 233-0419
djones@dem.state.in.us

- General Information
- Contact Hours

Web Address

www.IN.gov/ideam/water/compbr/compeval/wwcert.html

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DMR-QA Chemistry...

Frequently Asked Questions

I have not had to participate in the DMR-QA Program prior to this year; can I call the state coordinator and get a recommendation on which provider to use to supply samples?

No. The state coordinator cannot recommend one provider over another. You could check with other facilities and ask about their experience with providers.

Do I need to send any paperwork to the U.S. EPA?

Yes. The address correction form that is usually the back page of the announcement booklet needs to go to the U.S. EPA coordinator, (currently John Helm). They ask that you return this form even if your address has not changed. This is important because the U.S. EPA needs the correct address to send the announcement booklet to the permittee.

What if I don't receive my booklet from U.S. EPA; am I exempt from participating in the DMR-QA program for that year?

No. All major and designated minor NPDES dischargers must participate in the program; failure to participate is considered non-compliance. Contact the state coordinator if you haven't received your announcement booklet by May 15th of any year.

This is a U.S. EPA program; don't I need to send my results to someone at U.S. EPA too?

No. Although U.S. EPA initiates the program, the program is administered by the individual states.

Who needs to get a copy of my results?

If you only do in-house testing, send your results to your provider to be evaluated AND send a copy of them to the state DMR-QA coordinator. If you also use a contract laboratory, then do the following:

- Send a copy of their results to their provider (if different than your in-house provider)

- And send a copy of your in-house results to your provider
- And send a copy of both results to the state coordinator.
- Use the U.S. EPA cover pages that are included in your DMR-QA packet for all results that are sent to anyone.

Should my contract laboratory send their results back to their provider and just eliminate me as the "middle man"?

NO. Your contract laboratory should send their results to you. You, as the permittee, should:

- Make a copy of the U.S. EPA pages and send along with the contract lab results (even if the contract lab uses a provider that is different than your in-house test provider).

The provider must send the contract lab results to you as the permittee.

As a client of the contract lab, you should be interested in their results.

Who should sign the U.S. EPA DMR-QA form called the "NPDES Permittee Data Report Form"?

That form should be signed by whomever has authority to sign the DMRs. If you can't sign the DMR, then don't sign this form.

I have my evaluation back from my provider and I had all "acceptable" results. What do I have to do now?

Nothing. If you had the proper cover sheets on your results, your provider will know to send a copy of your evaluation to the state coordinator; you do not have to send a copy too.

I did not have "not acceptable or unacceptable" in-house results, but my contract laboratory missed one or more parameters; should they send their remediation explanation directly to the state coordinator?

No. The remediation explanation from the contract laboratory should come to you as the permittee. You are then responsible for sending it to the state coordinator. Also, you, as the client, should be very interested in how your contract laboratory responds to failing a DMR-QA test. Their results are YOUR results.

I had "unacceptable" results on one or more parameters that I test in-house. What do I do now?

- If your error was not a simple transcription error or a calculation error, the first recommendation would be to retest the missed parameters. The DMR-QA timetable allows plenty of time to reorder samples and retest before the deadline for submission of remediation explanations.
- If you had a transcription error, send a copy of your bench sheet that shows the correct result, along with your letter.
- If you retest a missed parameter, send a copy of the retest results to the DMR-QA state coordinator, not just a letter saying that you passed the retest.
- If you are not sure as to what to do, call the state coordinator.

When I get my evaluation from my provider, should I send a copy of it to the state coordinator?

No. Your provider will send a copy of your evaluation to the state coordinator. You do not need to send a duplicate copy. If your evaluation does not get to the coordinator, he/she will contact you.

Questions can be directed to Barb McDowell at 317-233-6464 or bmcdowel@dem.state.in.us.

Meet the new SRF!

Indiana's revolving loan program is evolving to serve you better! To better coordinate efforts between staff from the State Budget Agency and IDEM (the two agencies who co-partner in managing the State Revolving Fund Loan Programs for Drinking Water, Wastewater and Nonpoint Source projects) an executive director was hired to bring the two agencies together under one "umbrella." Jim McGoff, previously an attorney with the Indianapolis law firm of Bingham McHale, was hired in May to head up all of the SRF programs.

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Posey County...

IDEM is responsible for issuing operator certifications for persons responsible for water and wastewater treatment plants in the state. Certified operators must have specific experience, meet certain educational requirements, and pass a written exam. Treatment plant operators are responsible for ensuring plants are efficiently operated and for ensuring samples are properly taken and reported to IDEM.

These sample results are one way IDEM ensures treatment plants comply with effluent limitations and other requirements in their discharge permits. Falsification, failure to use reasonable care and judgement, and incompetence in an operator's duties in sampling and reporting monitoring results, are cause for revocation of an operator's certification.

The Indiana Department of Environmental Management (www.IN.gov/idem) oversees and implements federal and state regulations regarding the environment. IDEM issues permits and pursues enforcement action when violations occur that would harm the health of Indiana's air, land and water. Through incentive programs and outreach projects, the agency also encourages businesses and citizens to take actions every day to protect and improve Indiana's environment.

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FYI from IDEM...

completed Continuing Education Report Form to the certified operator for record keeping purposes. This will aid the operator at their renewal time if there is a discrepancy between IDEM records and the certified operators records.

- If you plan on attending a course for continuing education contact

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hours, please contact the training provider to confirm that the course has been pre-approved by IDEM.

- Currently, IDEM staff is working on updating the exam application forms. We hope to have the new forms on the operator certification Web site by December 2003. You can also find exam study guides and the April 2004 exam booklist on the Web site.
- Recently, Reggie Baker accepted the position as Security and Counter-Terrorism Coordinator within the Office of Water Quality. The primary mission of his position is working on vulnerability assessments and emergency response plans for community water supplies. Reggie can be reached at (317) 308-3332 or by e-mail at rbaker@dem.state.in.us.
- IDEM's Southwest Regional Office has relocated to Petersburg, Indiana. It is located at 1120 North Vincennes Avenue, P. O. Box 128, Petersburg, IN 47567-0128. The main office phone number is (812) 380-2305 and the fax number is (812) 380-2304.

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Meet the New SRF...

"The goal in creating the executive director position was to bring unity to the program," said Mr. McGoff. "In just a short period of time, the new organizational structure has proved to be a benefit to water systems and communities because of the improved coordination between the financing and technical review aspects associated with each SRF project."

As a reflection of the program's new structure, a single new logo will identify the program rather than the IDEM and SBA logos, which were previously utilized.



For more information about SRF's new structure or to obtain a loan application for a potential drinking water, wastewater or nonpoint source project, please visit www.IN.gov/idem/water/fasb/srf/index.html.

New E. Coli Testing for Small Facilities

The Municipal NPDES Permit Section has had a recent change in NPDES permit strategy for minor facilities that use chlorine as the disinfectant. Previously, facilities with average design flows under 1 MGD (typically minor municipals and semipublics) were not required to have *E. coli* limits or to conduct monitoring for *E. coli* bacteria provided they maintained specific minimum levels of total residual chlorine in the chlorine contact tank. Facilities that utilize other methods of disinfection, such as ultraviolet light, are already given *E. coli* limitations. The assumption was that as long as chlorine levels were adequate in the contact tank, the *E. coli* bacteria would be deactivated and compliance with the *E. coli* requirements would be met by default. This was primarily a cost savings approach afforded to the smaller systems.

However, the original basis for allowing the chlorine contact tank requirements to replace bacteria limits were based on studies involving fecal coliform levels, not *E. coli*. No direct correlation between the two can be conclusively drawn. Further, we have data that demonstrates that exceedances of *E. coli* limits may still occur even when the minimum chlorine contact tank requirements are met. When NPDES permits are renewed for their facilities, operators can expect to have additional limitations and/or monitoring requirements for *E. coli* bacteria, even if the average design flow of the facility is less than 1 MGD and the facility utilizes chlorine as the method of effluent disinfection.

May 8, 2003 Wastewater Certification Exam Statistics

Exam Site	Municipal Examinees	Industrial Examinees	Total Examinees
Indianapolis	127	87	214
Gary	76	36	112
Elkhart	71	21	92
Terre Haute	35	31	66
Sellersburg	22	10	32
Jasper	17	19	36
Prisons	1	1	2
Totals	349	205	554
No Shows All Sites			46
Total Approved to Take Exam			600

Municipal Top Scorers

Class I-SP

Ronald Sandlin

Class I

Katheryn Bigge,
Scott Reecer & Jon Cross

Class II

Kent Slater & Don Bixby

Class III

William Blowers

Class IV

DuWayne Johnson

Industrial Top Scorers

Class A-SO

Gregory Kujawski,
Jeffrey Kasper & Steve Lea

Class A

Nancy Erhart

Class B

Neil Burchard

Class C

Becky Howell

Class D

Kent Anderson

Municipal Passing Rates

Class	Number of Examinees	Number of Passing Scores	Percentage
I-SP	6	2	33%
I	136	81	60%
II	114	54	47%
III	59	21	36%
IV	34	18	53%

Industrial Passing Rates

Class	Number of Examinees	Number of Passing Scores	Percentage
A-SO	30	26	87%
A	44	28	64%
B	59	43	73%
C	37	23	62%
D	35	17	49%

Infrastructure Security: Where to Start?

On September 11, 2001, homeland security quickly became critical to our water and wastewater infrastructures. Yet, with possible exceptions, our wastewater infrastructure is as vulnerable as ever.

Federal agencies are partnering with organizations (including the Water Environment Federation) to develop and distribute information to help utilities evaluate their vulnerabilities and develop plans to prevent, respond to, and recover from attacks. Some information sources are listed below.

GENERAL:

- **National Infrastructure Protection Center:** NIPC (www.nipcc.gov) coordinates information from many agencies and the news media. Daily reports are available in PDF format at www.nipcc.gov/dailyreports/dailyindex.htm. The dailies cover current issues and events in many areas and provide hotlinks to Web sites for the featured updates.
- **U.S. Environmental Protection Agency:** U.S. EPA (www.epa.gov) has an infrastructure security site at www.epa.gov/safewater/security/index.html. For water/wastewater security, this is a good starting place with lots of hotlinks to find tools and training from U.S. EPA and various organizations. These organizations offer online broadcasts with national experts where you logon for the visual part and dial into a toll-free number for the soundtrack. Larger wastewater plants could host regional sessions for smaller nearby plants.
- **Indiana Department of Environmental Management:** IDEM (www.IN.gov/idem) will be posting security information online. The new study guide for wastewater certification will contain a part entitled, "Timely Topics in Wastewater Treatment (Part V)", which will

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Infrastructure Security...

include infrastructure security. This will be covered in future certification exams.

SMALL FACILITIES:

- **Indiana Rural Water Association** (317-789-4200): IRWA is accessible online at www.inh2o.org and provides security references.
- **Reference:** "Security Vulnerability Self-Assessment Guide for Small Drinking Water Systems Serving Populations Between 3,300 and 10,000," ASDWA and NRW, November 5, 2002. This is for small water utilities, but some carries over to wastewater. Hardcopies are available from IRWA (above).
- **Reference:** "Protecting Your Community's Assets: A Guide for Small Wastewater Systems," National Environmental Training Center, November 2002. This is available from the National Small Flows Clearinghouse at West Virginia University (www.nesc.wvu.edu/nsfc/nsfc_index.htm) by calling 800-624-8301.
- **Water Information Sharing & Analysis Center:** WaterISAC (www.waterisac.org) is a highly secure Internet portal that provides the best source for sensitive security information. It is a centralized resource that gathers, analyzes, and disseminates threat information that is specific to the drinking water and wastewater community.

MEDIUM-LARGE FACILITIES:

- **Association of Metropolitan Sewerage Authorities** (202-833-2672): AMSA has a security Web site at www.amsa-cleanwater.org/advocacy/security.
- **Vulnerability Self-Assessment Tool:** VSAT is risk-assessment software for medium-large utilities that can be ordered online from AMSA at www.VSATusers.net. The latest versions (December 2002)

include tools for water, wastewater or both. However, this is not a stand-alone program. The computer must also have Microsoft Suite® (MS Word®, Excel® and Access®). Due to security con-

cerns, this software is available only to utilities and authorized government agents and is usually sent only to work addresses.

Revised Inspection Procedures/Forms for NPDES Facility Inspections

In the spring of 2003, IDEM's Office of Water Quality (OWQ), Wastewater Facility Inspection Section, began to implement revised procedures for conducting and documenting field inspections at permitted and non-permitted wastewater treatment facilities in Indiana.

Each type of NPDES inspection (e.g., compliance evaluation, reconnaissance, industrial user, laboratory, sanitary sewer overflow, combined sewer overflow, compliance sampling, complaint investigation, etc.) still includes a written summary of the findings discovered during the inspection. A summary of violations and concerns noted during the inspection are verbally communicated to the facility representative during the inspection. Under the revised procedures, this verbal summary is documented on the NPDES Facility Verification of Inspection Form. This state form is signed and left on site during the exit interview portion of the inspection, unless no one is available at the site. In that case, a copy of the written inspection summary will be sent via certified mailed to the responsible party of the wastewater treatment facility.

Under the revised protocol, the preliminary inspection/screening findings will be reviewed by compliance supervisors and finalized with appropriate supervisory signatures. For reconnaissance inspections, if no violations were discovered with respect to the particular items observed during the inspection, the verification form left on site on the day of the inspection is considered the final report, subject to approval by the inspector's supervisor. If upon subsequent review, any changes to the report are deemed necessary, a revised report will be sent to the subject facility via certified mail.

If potential problems or violations were noted by the inspector, an inspection summary/violation letter will be generated by the inspector and sent via certified mail to the facility. Depending on the inspection findings, facilities receiving a certified letter based on marginal or unsatisfactory inspection findings, will be requested to reply to the letter within a specified number of days stating what actions the facility has taken or will take to return to compliance. Once the facility's response is received, it is routed to the inspector for his/her review and appropriate response or follow-up. Response time by the wastewater facility is tracked for timeliness. If a reply is not received in the requested time frame, or if it is inadequate, the facility may be referred to the Office of Enforcement for legal action.

If an inspection generates an unsatisfactory rating and the facility is to be immediately referred to the Office of Enforcement, the facility will receive an inspection summary/violation letter, confirming the referral.

If you have any questions regarding NPDES inspections and wastewater compliance issues, please contact Rick Roudebush, Chief, Wastewater Facility Inspection Section at (317) 234-2579 or by e-mail at rroudebu@dem.state.in.us.

U.S. EPA Further Protects the Nation's Water Systems—Establishes New Water Security Division

U.S. EPA's Assistant Administrator for Water, G. Tracy Mehan III, announced on September 9, 2003, that the agency has taken strong steps to further protect and safeguard the nation's drinking water and wastewater systems from terrorist acts by forming a new Water Security Division. This division will continue the important work undertaken by the Water Protection Task Force established in October 2001.

"Shortly after the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, the Bush Administration strengthened efforts already underway to promote security at America's public water facilities," said U.S. EPA's Assistant Administrator for Water G. Tracy Mehan III. "We are working closely with our stakeholders coast to coast to provide them with the resources and support they need as they find themselves facing increased responsibilities to protect the water supplies of their customers."

To date, the original task force has supported numerous activities to improve security of drinking water and wastewater utilities. Major accomplishments which will be enhanced by the Water Security Division include:

- Awarding \$51 million in grants directly to large drinking water systems to assist compliance with the requirements of the "Public Health Security and Bioterrorism Preparedness and Response Act of 2002." Out of 466 total systems, 464 have submitted vulnerability assessments to U.S. EPA.
- Awarding over \$30 million in grants to the states, tribes, and non-profit organizations to provide tools, training and technical assistance to small and medium drinking water systems as well as wastewater utilities on vulnerability assessments and related security work.
- Supporting the establishment of the WaterISAC, a state-of-the-art, secure information system that shares up-to-date threat and incident information between the intelligence community and the water sector.
- Developing and implementing a comprehensive research plan to address water security needs along with U.S. EPA's Office of Research and Development.

Under the Safe Drinking Water Act and the Clean Water Act, U.S. EPA works closely with partner organizations—government agencies and drinking water and waste water utilities and associations to ensure clean and safe water. Industry and government are also working to improve drinking water and waste water security. Building on and supporting long-established relationships with its partners, U.S. EPA helps the water sector to: understand and utilize the best scientific information and technologies for water security; support assessment of utilities' vulnerabilities to possible attack; take action to improve security and respond effectively and efficiently in the event that an incident occurs. For more information on water security go to: www.epa.gov/safewater/security/.

(Source: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Headquarters Press Release, 9/9/03)

Compliance with Phase II Storm Water Regulations

On December 8, 1999, U.S. EPA Phase II Storm Water Regulations took effect. These regulations required states with NPDES-permitting authority to adopt similar regulations. Indiana's municipal separate storm sewer system (MS4) rule, Rule 13 (327 IAC 15-13), regulation became effective on August 6, 2003, and its construction activity rule, Rule 5 (327 IAC 15-5), and industrial activity rule, Rule 6 (327 IAC 15-6), regulations are expected to become effective by December 2003.

In Indiana, a Rule 5 and Rule 6 program existed under Phase I, which took effect in 1992. These rules were revised under Phase II to include federal requirements and Phase I omissions, and to clarify existing language (based on program staff experience implementing Phase I and recurrent questions). The principal federal changes are: (1) for Rule 5, to change the criteria for needing a permit, from five or more acres of land disturbance, to one or more acre of land disturbance; and (2) for Rule 6, to include applicability of a "no exposure" exclusion to all categories of industry subject to the rule. Additional changes were made to these rules, and the revised rules can be viewed as links from the general storm water Web page at www.IN.gov/idem/water/npdes/permits/wetwthr/storm/index.html.

The third storm water rule, Rule 13, is a new general permit rule. Phase I federal and state requirements only targeted the largest municipalities for regulation. Under Phase I, only the City of Indianapolis was issued an individual NPDES storm water permit. Under Phase II, general storm water permits are now required for many of the remaining MS4 entities (including municipalities, counties, universities, correctional facilities, conservancy districts, and homeowners associations). The rule language and listing of designated MS4 entities are available as links from the Web page stated in the preceding paragraph. In most cases, these regulated entities must submit Notice of Intent (NOI) letters to IDEM by November 4, 2003. This general permit rule includes the requirement to develop a storm water quality management plan to address public education and involvement, illicit discharge detection and elimination, construction site and post-construction run-off control, and pollution prevention and good housekeeping for operations. Also under Phase II, an individual statewide storm water permit will be issued to the Indiana Department of Transportation.

U.S. EPA Operations & Maintenance Award Winners:



The U.S. EPA Operations and Maintenance (O&M) Excellence Awards Program—Section 501(e) authorized the U.S. EPA to develop and implement a recognition program for municipalities and industries that demonstrate outstanding technological achievements or innovative processes, methods or devices in their waste treatment and pollution abatement programs.

In 1985, the U.S. EPA initiated the O&M Awards Program. The objectives of the program are: to sensitize the public about the contributions that publicly owned wastewater treatment facilities make to clean water; to encourage public support for effective O&M, sewer use, and user charge systems; and, to recognize communities that continue to meet permit requirements from outstanding O&M practices. The program offers national and regional first and second place awards to small, medium and large secondary and advanced facilities, as well as small and large non-discharging facilities and a Most Improved Plant category.

Each year, IDEM selects Indiana candidates to represent our state in the U.S. EPA Region V program. Regional winners are then chosen by a committee at Region V Headquarters. The submissions from the first place winners in each category from all of the regional programs are then sent to U.S. EPA Headquarters in Washington, DC for consideration in the national award program.

The candidate for Small Advanced from Indiana, the **New Whiteland POTW**, was a **Second Place Regional Winner**. The candidate in the **Most Improved Plant category**, **St. Joe-Spencerville**, St. Joe, Indiana, received a **First Place Regional Award** and a **Second Place National Award**. Congratulations to both facilities!!!

Basin Water Quality Assessments in 2004-2005

Staff from IDEM's Office of Water Quality Assessment Branch will be working in the Lower Wabash River and Kankakee River Basins in 2004-2005. Staff will be collecting samples at randomly selected sites and data collected will be analyzed and evaluated to determine the status of water quality in the waterbodies in these basins. The initial sampling in 2004 will serve to provide an overview of the overall status of the water quality in these basins and identify waters that are impaired. Follow up sampling to identify causes and sources of the impairments on those waters that are impaired will occur in 2005. More information on IDEM's Surface Water Quality Monitoring Strategy can be found at www.IN.gov/ideM/water/assessbr/016surfwaterqualmonstrat.pdf.



Indiana Department of Environmental Management

Office of Water Quality

Compliance Branch

Compliance Evaluation Section

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